

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting  
May 25, 2004**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was called to order by Chair Nancy Hadley at 8:02 am on May 25. Commissioners John Watts, Marcus Gibbs, Cameron Wheeler, John Burns, and Frederick L. Wood III, MD responded to the roll call. Commissioner Alex Irby joined the meeting in progress.

Present in the Director's Office: Director Steven Huffaker; Tom Hemker, Program Coordinator; Brad Compton, Wildlife Game Manager; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Anadromous Fishery Manager; Jack Trueblood, Conservation Public Education Supervisor; Bill Horton, Anadromous Fishery Coordinator; Virgil Moore, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries; Jim Unsworth, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife; Steve Barton, Assistant to the Director; Joan Trueblood, Executive Assistant; and Roger Phillips from the Idaho Statesman.

The meeting was scheduled to consider proposals for spring and summer chinook salmon seasons, proposed seasons for 2004 early goose, sandhill crane, and dove seasons, and a staff recommendation to adjust an outfitter allocated elk hunt in Unit 43.

**RULES**

**Game Fish: Chinook Salmon Seasons**

Sharon Kiefer provided updates on 2004 spring and summer chinook salmon. She reported the updated forecast over Bonneville Dam is 189,000 spring chinook, 50% reduction from the preseason forecast. The run size though May 23 at Lower Granite Dam was 55,604 adult chinook (72% hatchery fish). The updated forecast at Lower Granite is 65,000 fish. The forecast no longer supports surplus return to adults sufficient for fishing opportunity in the upper Salmon River.

The summer chinook project at Bonneville Dam is 102,000 fish and counting will begin June 1. The count will begin at Lower Granite Dam on June 18; the projection is for 22,000 fish (68% hatchery produced).

Ms. Kiefer reviewed staff recommendations for 2004 spring and summer chinook salmon seasons.

**O4-62 Commissioner Watts moved and Commissioner Irby seconded a motion TO APPROVE THE SPRING AND SUMMER CHINOOK SALMON PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED:**

**BOISE RIVER SPRING CHINOOK FISHERY.**

**THIS FISHERY IS ON HATCHERY SPRING CHINOOK (RAPID RIVER STOCK)  
IN EXCESS OF BROODSTOCK NEEDS THAT ARE TRAPPED AT HELLS  
CANYON DAM AND TRANSPORTED TO THE BOISE RIVER.**

**FISHING RULES: NO CHANGE FROM IDAHO 2004 SPRING CHINOOK SALMON SEASONS AND RULES FOR SNAKE RIVER, LOWER SALMON RIVER, LITTLE SALMON RIVER & CLEARWATER RIVER DRAINAGE, EXCEPT:**

**SEASON OPENS MAY 26, CLOSES SEPTEMBER 6.**

**LIMITS, INCLUDING JACKS: DAILY, 2; POSSESSION, 6; SEASON, (STATEWIDE) 20.**

**BOUNDARIES: BOISE RIVER FROM ITS MOUTH UPSTREAM TO BARBER DAM.**

**HOURS: FISHING FOR CHINOOK SALMON IN THE BOISE RIVER IS PERMITTED 24 HOURS A DAY DURING THE DESIGNATED SEASON.**

**METHODS OF TAKE: BARBLESS HOOKS NOT REQUIRED BECAUSE ONLY HATCHERY CHINOOK WILL BE STOCKED IN THE BOISE RIVER.**

#### **SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER SUMMER CHINOOK FISHERY**

**FISHING RULES: NO CHANGE FROM IDAHO 2004 SPRING CHINOOK SALMON SEASONS AND RULES FOR SNAKE RIVER, LOWER SALMON RIVER, LITTLE SALMON RIVER & CLEARWATER RIVER DRAINAGE, EXCEPT:**

**SEASON OPENS JUNE 21, CLOSES AUGUST 1. NOTE – SEASON CLOSURE IS BY DATE OR “*UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST*”, WHICH INDICATES CLOSURE MAY OCCUR FOR BIOLOGICAL PURPOSE SUCH AS QUOTA OR FAILURE TO MEET RUN EXPECTATION.**

**LIMITS, INCLUDING JACKS: DAILY, 3; POSSESSION, 9; SEASON, (STATEWIDE) 20.**

**BOUNDARIES – MAINSTEM SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER FROM THE MOUTH OF GOAT CREEK UPSTREAM TO A POSTED BOUNDARY APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS DOWNSTREAM FROM THE SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER SALMON WEIR AND TRAP.**

#### **LOWER MAINSTEM SALMON RIVER SUMMER CHINOOK FISHERY**

**NOTE: THIS FISHERY IS PROPOSED PENDING INCIDENTAL TAKE AUTHORIZATION FROM NOAA FISHERIES. PERMIT IS EXPECTED PRIOR TO JUNE 21.**

**FISHING RULES: NO CHANGE FROM IDAHO 2004 SPRING CHINOOK SALMON SEASONS AND RULES FOR SNAKE RIVER, LOWER SALMON RIVER, LITTLE SALMON RIVER & CLEARWATER RIVER DRAINAGE, EXCEPT:**

**SEASON OPENS JUNE 21, CLOSES JULY 5.**

**LIMITS, INCLUDING JACKS: DAILY, 3; POSSESSION, 9; SEASON (STATEWIDE) 20.**

**BOUNDARIES: MAINSTEM LOWER SALMON RIVER FROM THE HAMMER CREEK BOAT RAMP UPSTREAM TO A POSTED LINE AT THE VINEGAR CREEK BOAT RAMP.**

The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

**Game Birds: Early Goose, Sandhill Crane, and Dove Seasons**

Tom Hemker reviewed staff recommendations regarding early goose, sandhill crane, and dove seasons, and public input on the proposals.

**04-63 Commissioner Wood moved and Commissioner Burns seconded a motion TO ADOPT STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EARLY GOOSE, SANDHILL CRANE AND DOVE SEASONS AS FOLLOWS: NO EARLY GOOSE SEASONS DUE TO ADEQUATE HARVEST EXPECTED DURING THE 107 DAY STATEWIDE GOOSE SEASON; NO CHANGE TO THE MOURNING DOVE SEASON (SEPTEMBER 1-30 WITH A DAILY BAG OF 10 AND A SEASON LIMIT OF 20); AND A SANDHILL CRANE SEASON AS FOLLOWS WITH A DAILY LIMIT OF TWO AND A SEASON LIMIT OF NINE:**

HUNT AREA	SEASON	PERMITS
CARIBOU AND BEAR LAKE COUNTIES	9/1-15	165
TETON COUNTY	9/1-7	24
TETON COUNTY	9/8-15	24
FREMONT COUNTY	9/1-7	24
FREMONT COUNTY	9/8-15	24

The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

**Licenses: Adjustment to Outfitter Allocated Elk Hunt in Unit 43**

Brad Compton, Wildlife Game Manager, reported the summary of proposed Big Game rules provided to the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board included a reduction in antlered elk permits in Unit 43-1, but inadvertently did not include a reduction in the corresponding outfitter allocated hunt. Hunt #2144 had been reduced from six permits to five in 2004; however, the outfitter has verified that he has booked the hunt under the assumption that an allocated tag was available.

The staff recommendation is to increase Hunt #2144 from five to six permits for 2004, and make the corresponding tag reduction take effect in 2005.

**04-64 Commissioner Gibbs moved and Commissioner Wood seconded a motion TO INCREASE THE OUTFITTER ALLOCATED PERMITS IN HUNT #2144 IN UNIT 43 FROM FIVE TO SIX FOR 2004 AND TO MAKE THE PERMIT REDUCTION FROM SIX TO FIVE IN THAT HUNT EFFECTIVE IN 2005. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag**

Discussion addressed the Commission's change in the nonresident junior mentored tag (JMT) rule at its April 2004 meeting to require the mentor to hold a tag in the same hunt as the youth; the number of 2003 sales of nonresident JMT regular, Clearwater, and Southeast Idaho deer tags and elk tags; a draft memo on how to implement Commission intent of the rule change; intent of the nonresident JMT program; unintended consequences of the JMT and the potential for monetary exploitation of the tag; issues relating to the Southeast Idaho deer tag; and the perception of the JMT in the Southeast Region.

There was Commission consensus on the guidelines contained in the draft memorandum on how to implement Commission intent on the JMT rule change. Commissioner Wheeler suggested further discussion on the JMT at the July Commission meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 am.